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News Bulletin : THE WASHINGTON POST, Pg. A18

8 June 1984

Item No. 1

Senate Panel And CIA Agree On Notification

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The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and CIA Director William J. Casey have agreed on new procedures intended to ensure that, when the agency engages in such major intelligence actions as the recent mining of Nicaraguan harbors, the committee will be fully and clearly informed in advance.

Announcement of the agreement, intended to prevent repetition of the controversy about whether the panel had been told of the mining, came as a House subcommittee voted yesterday to deny President Reagan's request for an additional \$117 million in military aid for El Salvador.

The House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations rejected Reagan's argument that the money is needed to keep Salvadoran troops supplied in their fight against leftist guerrillas.

Instead, it voted to accept the recommendation of subcommittee Chairman Clarence D. Long (D-Md.) that no further increase in security assistance for El Salvador be made in the current fiscal year and that Reagan's requested package of \$197.3 million in military aid for Central America be cut to \$24.75 million.

The Senate intelligence panel issued a three-paragraph announcement about the agreement reached Wednesday by Casey, committee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and Vice Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

The announcement did not give details. But committee sources implied that the procedures are designed to restrict severely Casey's ability to be vague or selective about what he tells the committee concerning CIA operations. When the CIA's role in the



Associated Press

Nicaraguan rebel officials discuss goals of movement at news conference here.

Nicaraguan mining became known last April, Goldwater and Moynihan angrily charged that the committee had not been informed.

The announcement said only that the aim is to ensure compliance with the law requiring that the House and Senate intelligence panels be kept "fully and currently informed" of all intelligence activities, including "any significant anticipated intelligence activity." It added that the new procedures spell out "several important propositions concerning the meaning of this section" of the law.

"We had prior notice to begin with. Now we've extended that, tightened up what might have been loopholes," Sen. Walter D. Huddleston (D-Ky.), a committee member, said.

Specifically, Huddleston added, the agreement calls for prior notice of new CIA activities in three areas: anything that changes the nature of an operation by going beyond the original determination or "finding" that it is justified by the national interest, anything in the intelligence area that requires approval of the president or National Security Council and reporting on any subject of CIA activity about which the committee has expressed interest.

Huddleston said the agreement formalizes a system of "regular updates" on covert operations. He

said the accord does not state the updates' frequency but noted that, until now, they almost always have been done at committee insistence rather than CIA initiative.

In that context, committee sources noted that, after a new "finding" last September authorizing covert activities against Nicaragua, Casey did not give the committee a full-scale briefing until March. In that meeting, he referred briefly to the harbor mining, but committee members contend that it was done in a way that minimized its significance and omitted the direct U.S. role in supervising the operation.

The House subcommittee's action, on a party-line voice vote in the Democratic-controlled panel, marked at least a temporary setback for Reagan. Ranking minority member Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) said Republican members would seek to have the action reversed in the full committee and added, "We think we can win there."

The administration had sought \$179 million in supplemental funds for El Salvador for fiscal 1984 and \$132.5 million for fiscal 1985. The House and Senate approved the first \$62 million, but those funds have been blocked by failure of the two chambers to agree on the related question of funding further CIA support for Nicaraguan rebels.